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The Urban District of Penrith

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1951

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PENRITH :

" HERALD " PRINTING CO., LTD., 14-15, KING STREET,

1952.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
PENRITH,

30th May, 1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENRITH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL :

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the health of the town for the year 1951 ; the report has been compiled on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at the mid-year, 1950, was 10,620, and in this connection the result of the census returns taken in 1951 is not yet available.

The vital statistics are satisfactory, showing little variation from those in 1950, and it is pleasing to record that once again we have no maternal deaths or deaths from puerperal causes.

Cancer deaths remain pretty constant in number and the average age at death was 65 years.

The main causes of death are again similar in 1951 to those in 1950, viz : Heart disease and its ancillary group of diseases, followed closely by cerebral apoplexy, etc.

As this will be my last Annual Report on the health services of the town I wish to make the following observations, viz :

(i) **Housing**—The housing problem remains unsolved with some 486 sub-standard houses still to be dealt with and this standstill is entirely due to circumstances beyond our control. The above figures serve to show the magnitude of this question facing the town and the responsibility for which I have with regret to leave to my successor as Medical Officer of Health for your town.

A modicum of slum property has been dealt with, but the outbreak of the Second World War brought this work to a complete standstill, and although 162 houses have been completed since the cessation of hostilities the problem remains acute, particularly in view of the large number of people who are on the Council's waiting list for houses.

(ii) **Infectious Diseases**—The virtual extinction of diphtheria in this district is due to the outstanding success of artificial immunisation which was commenced in the Penrith schools in the year 1936. This happy state of affairs can only persist so long as the public continue to support artificial immunisation against diphtheria, and especially among pre-school age children.

Of the other chief infectious diseases, Scarlet Fever is now regarded as a mild illness, and the number of cases has markedly declined in recent years. This may partly be caused by the newer sulphonamide and penicillin drugs which are now available.

In the near future mass inoculations against whooping cough are expected to produce a fall in the incidence of this disease, comparable with the decline in diphtheria.

(iii) **Water Supply**—The inadequacy of the present supply is illustrated by frequent cuts when cessation of supply during certain periods, mainly during the hours of darkness, occurs.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has approved the Council's scheme for augmentation of the supply by duplication of the gravitating main between Hayeswater Filterhouse and the break-pressure tank on Bore-

dalehead, and it is estimated that when completed this scheme will increase Penrith's supply by 60,000 gallons of water per diem.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees and to my colleagues on the staff for their continued support and help.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. GAVIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,586
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,025
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£67,714
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£268 5s. 7d.
Registrar General's estimate of the population	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,620
Live Births				Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	..	..	..	84	79	163	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	4	3	7	
							<hr/> 170 <hr/>
Birth rate per 1,000 of population (corrected)	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.64
Birth rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.5
Still Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths				Male	Female	Total	
				70	70	140	
Death Rate per 1,000 of population (standardised)				..	..	..	12.12
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.5
Deaths from Puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year;							
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.41
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.52
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	142.85
Infantile death rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

The comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General for the Penrith Urban District is 0.93 for 1951, and with this factor the standardised death rate is 12.12.

The comparability factor for births in this district is 1.04, and this factor gives the corrected birth rate at 16.64.

The social conditions of the town are similar to those noted in previous reports.

Penrith, which is one of the oldest market towns in England has a fine situation within 5 miles of Ullswater Lake, and is a natural centre for a large agricultural community in the sister counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. The town is hilly with an average height about 500 feet above sea level, the highest point being attained at Penrith Beacon with an elevation of 937 feet.

Gilwilly Industrial Estate has developed with the establishment of several light industries mainly connected with agriculture, and there is little or no unemployment in the district at the present time.

VITAL STATISTICS

I am indebted to Dr. Kenneth Fraser, County Medical Officer of Health for the following statistics, viz, :—

	Birth rate	Crude Death rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
Administrative County of Cumberland	17.1	13.2	34
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven) ..	17.2	13.2	32
Rural Districts of Cumberland	17.1	13.1	35
Urban District of Penrith ..	16.64	13.18	29.41
England and Wales ..	15.5	12.5	29.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1950.

Five deaths of infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1951, compared with three such deaths in 1950.

The details are as follows :—

- (1) Female illegitimate child died from birth injury, cerebral haemorrhage and spastic diplegia aged 7 weeks on 30.12.1950.
- (2) Female premature child died at County Maternity Hospital, only living 9 hours.
- (3 & 4) Twins born prematurely at the City Maternity Hospital, Carlisle, only lived 1 day and two days.
- (5) Male child died of neonatal asphyxia at the County Maternity Home and lived 1 day.

Infantile Mortality Rate for 1951	29.41
Rate for England and Wales	29.6

WATER SUPPLY.

Serious shortages in the supply were reported at various periods during the year 1951, and are especially liable to occur following a period of prolonged frost when service pipes which have been frozen cause loss of water at the subsequent thaw owing to delays in repairs, and whenever a burst happens on the 8" main travelling some 18 miles from Hayeswater Lake to Penrith where it services four reservoirs.

The purity of the water from Hayeswater has been maintained, and it has no lead-solvent action. The gathering ground is regularly inspected by the Water Engineer, and notice boards warn the public against pollution of the lake where swimming and fishing are prohibited.

Unfortunately, the supply is proving inadequate to the demand, partly owing to the increasing population and partly due to better housing conditions in the town, and the Council have been forced to seek augmentation of the supply by a scheme to duplicate the main pipe line from Hayeswater Filter House to Boardalehead break pressure tank, which scheme has now been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

3,019 dwelling houses are supplied and a population of 10,596 is served by water mains, and 600 are served by stand pipes.

It is noted that there are only 4 dwelling houses (cottages) and 2 farms not supplied from the public water mains.

The following is the Analyst's report on a sample of water taken from a private house in Penrith :—

EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Time and place of sample taken—No. 3 Water from Distribution Mains (Fairhill Zone) taken on 27th May, 1951, at 9 p.m. at "Whinfell," Howard Street, Penrith.

Bacteriology.

Agar plate count	..	0.1 ml. Colonies	1 ml. Colonies	10 ml. Colonies
at 22°C				
at 37°C				

Probable number of coli-aerogenes present in 100 ml.—Nil.

Chemistry.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—Clear and colourless.
pH. 7.6

	Parts per 100,000						
Free and Saline ammonia	0.002
Albuminoid ammonia	0.004
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27°C	0.008
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.016
Total solids	4.9
Suspended matter	Nil
Hardness—total	3.5
permanent	2.9
temporary	0.6
Chlorine present as chlorides	0.55
Heavy metals	0.0
Nitrates	—
Nitrites	—

Opinion :—Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water.

(Sgd.) J. STEVEN FAULDS,
Chemist.

Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Date received—18.12.51.

Address :

No. 3 Distribution water—Fairhill Zone. Taken at Howard Street, Penrith on 18.12.51 at 9-15 a.m.

No coliform organisms present in 100 ml. of the original water.

Bacteriologically highly satisfactory.

(Sgd.) ST. SZUTOWICZ.

Water for Bacteriology.
Specimen.

Date Reported : 20.12.51.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 :—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was required under this Act during 1951.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox :

No known cases or contacts of this disease occurred in the district during 1951. The only protection against smallpox is by vaccination or re-vaccination.

Scarlet Fever :

Eleven cases were notified in 1951 and eight of these were admitted to the Penrith Isolation Hospital. Six cases were children attending the County Infants' School, Penrith, during the month of May—two of these children were domiciled in the Penrith Rural District. An inspection at this school of the classroom contacts showed an unduly large number of children suffering from sore throats and/or with enlarged tonsils.

Throat or nose swabs were taken from 36 children with congested throats or unhealthy nasal mucosae ; and the laboratory at Carlisle reported five children positive for Haemolytic Streptococci, but only one in Lancefield Group A who was, therefore, excluded from school and arrangements made for treatment by his family doctor.

There were no further cases at this school during the year 1951.

At the present time it is not considered necessary for cases of this disease to be sent to hospital except where there are exceptional difficulties in isolation of the case at home or where the case presents clinical complications.

In my opinion it is undesirable to retain cases at home where overcrowding exists or where one or more members of the family are food handlers, e.g., a milker of cows.

Scarlet Fever is actually streptococcal sore throat where the infecting organism produces an erythrogenic toxin, and the patient being susceptible to this toxin which produces the rash of Scarlet Fever ; however, where the patient is immune to the toxin the rash does not occur, and the disease is simply "Streptococcal sore throat."

In all cases the usual disinfection was carried out and contacts excluded from school as prescribed by the School Regulations.

This disease is still relatively mild.

Diphtheria :

For the fourth successive year there were no cases of this disease notified in the Penrith Districts.

The work of active immunisation of school children and pre-school age children was continued as in previous years.

Diphtheria notifications during the last 18 years are as follows :—

Years	Diphtheria Cases	Deaths
1934	23	Nil
1935	32	2
1936	23	1
1937	19	Nil
1938	19	Nil
1939	10	Nil
1940	4	Nil
1941	1	Nil
1942	1	Nil
1943	2	1
1944	12	2
1945	2	Nil
1946	1	Nil
1947	1	Nil
1948	Nil	Nil
1949	Nil	Nil
1950	Nil	Nil
1951	Nil	Nil

Puerperal Fever :

Two cases were notified in 1951 and both were patients at the County Maternity Home, Penrith.

Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia :

50% of the notifications were in December or January, and the others were notified in the months of March, July and August. That there were no deaths can undoubtedly be credited to the antibiotic drugs, e.g., Penicillin, etc.

Erysipelas :

Two cases were recorded in 1951—the same number as in 1950 and in 1949—and they were both middle-aged persons.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis :

Fortunately there were no cases of this disease in the Penrith areas during 1951, and in this connection virological investigations were carried out by the Medical Research Council during the year ; 30 sewer points at selected man-holes in the town area were swabbed in April and July with the help of the Sanitary Inspector and the Rodent Operator, and the results are still awaited with interest.

Intestinal organisms were found at a manhole which serves, inter alia, a residential children's home where outbreaks of Flexner's Dysentery had occurred in the year 1950.

Salmonellosis (Food Poisoning) :

A single case was notified on 11th June and the causal organism was found to be **Salmonella Thompson**. As is usual when a single case occurs, it was impossible to find the food responsible.

Symptoms were comparable with those of typhoid fever, and treatment with one of the new antibiotic drugs—Chloramphenicol—secured a satisfactory recovery.

Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne) :

Sporadic cases of this disease occurred during the first three months of the year, and isolated cases also in May and September. In this connection propa-

ganda films were shown at a meeting at the Town Hall, Penrith, on 17th April, 1951, when Dr. J. S. Faulds gave a most instructive and interesting lecture which was greatly appreciated by an audience mainly composed of persons actively engaged in the Catering trades.

Again the importance of special precautions to be observed by food handlers needs stressing viz : “ All Food Handlers must wash their hands with soap and hot water before handling foodstuffs, and particularly after visiting a toilet.”

Measles :

The explosive epidemic of Measles which broke out towards the close of the year 1950 continued during the first half of the year 1951 with a majority of the cases in the months of January, March and April.

It is noted that there were no deaths from this cause and this disease was last epidemic in Penrith in the period December, 1947–February, 1948.

Whooping Cough :

Outbreaks of this serious disease of childhood occurred throughout the year chiefly in the autumn and winter months. There were no deaths from this disease in 1951, and it is hoped that a satisfactory vaccine will be found in the near future by the Medical Research Council.

Anthrax :

Under the Anthrax Order of 1938 a notice was received on 1st June, 1951, regarding a suspected Red and White Shorthorn Cow at a farm in this district, but on examination by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries it was found that the carcass was not infected by Anthrax.

CANCER.

Twenty four deaths were attributed to malignant disease giving a death rate of 2.25 per 1,000 of the population ; in the 1950 there were twenty deaths and a rate of 1.87 per 1,000 population.

The details are as follows :—

System :						Males	Females
Alimentary :							
Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
Colon	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Rectum	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Pharynx	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Lungs, Bronchus :	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
Genito-Urinary :							
Bladder	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	4
Ovary	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
Lymphosarcoma (Generalised)	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Totals :						13	11

1	death	occurred	in	a	person	aged	34	years
4	deaths	occurred	in	persons	aged	between	42	and 50 years
3	“	“	“	“	“	“	51	and 60 years
6	“	“	“	“	“	“	61	and 70 years
2	“	“	“	“	“	“	71	and 74 years
6	“	“	“	“	“	“	75	and 80 years
2	“	“	“	“	“	“	81	and 85 years

Total number of deaths—24

70% of the deaths were over 60 years of age and 65 years was the average age at death.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED).

1. **Local Authority**—Penrith Urban District Council. Year—1951.
2. **Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to R.G.**

1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter	Total.
NIL	1	NIL	NIL	1

3. **Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents.**

Total outbreaks—NIL. Total cases—NIL.

4. **Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.**

Total outbreaks—NONE. Total cases—NONE.

5. **Single Cases.**

Agent identified—ONE. Unknown cause—NIL. Total—ONE.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAK. (SUMMARY OF DETAILS).

1. **Food Causing Outbreak**—Not determined. **Agent Causing Outbreak**—*SALMONELLA THOMPSON*.
2. **Cases Forming Outbreak** which occurred on 31st May, 1951.
Total notified—ONE. Total ascertained—ONE. Fatal—NIL.
3. **Clinical Features**—Average interval ingestion to onset—unknown. Main symptoms, etc.—Initially with rigors and temperature of 99 degrees Fahrenheit and temperature rose daily by steps (compared with typhoid fever) for a week to 105 degrees Fahrenheit which latter temperature was maintained for several days and terminated with fall by lysis. There was no diarrhoea, but profound constitutional disturbance with febrile symptoms lasting for three weeks' duration. Organism identified as *Salmonella Thompson*—sensitive to Chloramphenicol.

Laboratory Reports—dated 8th June, 1951—Blood culture sterile. Urine negative for *Salmonella Thompson*.

Agglutination Test—Patient's serum against *Salmonella Thompson* isolated from faeces and against Polyvalent *Salmonella* suspension—negative.

Mode of Infection—Unknown.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

Diseases	AGES												Totals	Admitted o Isolation Hosp	Deaths	
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45--	65-				
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	2	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	11	8	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	12	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Salmonellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery (Flexner)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne)	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	12	-	-	-
Measles	11	40	38	56	53	88	3	1	2	2	-	-	294	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	11	16	13	11	35	3	-	-	-	-	-	97	-	-	-
												Totals ..	431	8	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS CASES, 1951.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
To 1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	..	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards		—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ..	6	6	1	2	3	1	—	—

No action has been necessary in respect of Tuberculosis among persons employed in the Milk Trade under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Three of the twelve new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were transfers from other areas and five of these new cases were "sputum positive."

Four deaths were recorded from pulmonary tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 0.37 per 1,000 of the population. (0.46 per 1,000 of the population in 1950).

One of the four fatal cases had been notified as long ago as 1932, and three were over 65 years of age.

It is to be noted that there were no deaths from non-respiratory tubercle (as in 1950).

Thorough disinfection of premises is carried out where a death has occurred and also in cases where a change of domicile has taken place or a patient has been admitted to hospital or Sanatorium.

The first visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit to Penrith took place during the week commencing 21st January, 1952, and the public sessions were so popular that it was found impossible to accommodate everyone who wished to avail himself or herself of the facilities offered.

The Medical Director of the Unit, Dr. High Morton, who is also the Consultant Physician in charge of the Tuberculosis Services in the Cumberland and North Westmorland Special Area, has, however, promised to repeat the Penrith visit in the autumn of this year when it is hoped that all will take the opportunity to utilise this excellent service provided free of cost by the Ministry of Health.

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
26	4	22	5	57

The total number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1951, is 57 which compares with 54 at the end of the year 1950.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1951
for the Urban District of Penrith in the County of Cumberland:

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	13	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	67	60	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Totals ..	84	75	1	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	F'nd	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	10	10	—	5	—
Totals ..	14	14	—	5	—

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	Nil
Whooping Cough	—	—	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	Nil
Measles	—	—	Nil
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	4	—	4
Cancer of Stomach	3	1	4
Cancer of Breast	—	4	4
Cancer of Uterus	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Cancers ..	5	5	10
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ..	11	17	28
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	4	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2	3
Other Heart Diseases	17	16	33
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	2	2
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	8	8	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	2
All other Accidents	1	3	4
Suicide	1	—	1
	<hr/> 70 <hr/>	<hr/> 70 <hr/>	<hr/> 140 <hr/>

PENRITH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
PENRITH,
— March, 1952.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1951 :—

Summary of Inspections and Visits :

Inspection of Dwelling Houses :

Under the Public Health and Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	327
Re Housing Applications	..	..	..	..	218
Re drainage defects	..	..	..	..	44
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	43
Inspections of Other Premises :					
Offices—Section 92. P.H. Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	6
Hotels, Public Houses	..	..	..	..	14
Cinemas	..	..	..	..	4
Stables	..	..	..	..	3
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	81
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	83
Schools	..	..	..	..	4
Re Poliomyelitis investigations	..	..	..	..	66
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	144
Factories	..	..	..	..	38
Sewage Disposal Works	..	..	..	..	2
Refuse Pit	..	..	..	..	4
* Dairies	..	..	..	..	15
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	6
Ice Cream Retailers	..	..	..	..	27
Meat Retailers	..	..	..	..	17
Fishmonger/Poulterers	..	..	..	..	22
Grocers	..	..	..	..	64
Fruiterers	..	..	..	..	16
Food Manufacturers (S.14. Food & Drugs)	..	..	..	..	20
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	42
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	5
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	8
Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	590

* Inspection of Food Premises

Research—Poliomyelitis :

During the year assistance was given in Poliomyelitis Research work in conjunction with the County Council, Dr. Faulds, Pathologist, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, and the Medical Research Council, London.

The experiment was to see if any active poliomyelitis virus could be isolated in the sewers. Swabs were taken at thirty selected check points in the town's main sewers during April and July, and these were sent to London for analysis.

Trichinosis :

In view of the outbreak of trichinosis in this town 10 years ago a request was received from the London School of Hygiene for a number of rats from the Urban Area. Fifty rats were sent, and I am indebted to Miss Hunnam for the following information :—

Number of rats examined—50

Number of rats found infected with trichina spiralis—5

This gives a percentage of 10 against 8.4 at the peak of the 1941 outbreak. Another important factor is that the rats sent away this year were from a different district than the area of infestation in 1941.

I hope this illustration will stress the importance of a proper system of rodent control which is now in operation.

Clean Food Campaign :

A limited amount of time has been spent on visiting shops and food-preparing premises. Attention has been called to the Byelaws relating to Food Handlers, etc, and there was a very good attendance of employers and employees engaged in the food trade to see the film show, “Another Case of Poisoning” The lecturer was Dr. J. S. Faulds, Pathologist, Cumberland Infirmary.

Ice Cream :

There are six manufacture-retailers of ice cream and forty-four retailers of ice cream in the town. Three of the manufacturers produce a cold mix ice cream which they sell only from their own premises.

No Grade IV ice cream was found during the year. Altogether 18 samples of ice cream were sent to the Pathologist, Carlisle Infirmary, for examination.

The results were as follows :—

12 samples	..	..	Grade 1
2 ,,	..	..	,, 2
4 ,,	..	..	,, 3
— ,,	..	..	,, 4

I am pleased to report that :—

Schools :

The unsatisfactory sanitary conditions prevailing at the Brunswick Road Girls’ School have now been alleviated, but I regret I cannot say the same about the conditions at the Girls’ National School and the Boys’ National School.

School Milk Supply :

No sample of school milk was found during the year to contain Tubercle Bacilli.

Public Abattoir :

The Penrith Public Abattoir is one of the most up-to-date in the country. The arrangement for the killing of animals fully complies with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. The Cash Captive Bolt Gun is used for stunning all animals brought in for slaughter. A recent improvement carried out during the past twelve months is the electrifying of the winches and the provision of an electrical saw to saw the carcasses in two instead of splitting with the axe.

Public Conveniences :

The public conveniences already provided are inadequate for the needs of the town, and the provision of washing facilities would be a great asset. Sites for this are being investigated.

Public Market :

No washing facilities are available for the tenants of the market shops and stalls, but the Surveyor has investigated the possibility of providing these.

Public Cleansing—Refuse Collection and Disposal. Public Health Act, 1936 :

The weekly house-to-house collection of refuse continues to operate, and is dealt with at the Council's Red Hills tip.

Rodent Control—Prevention of Damage by Pests Act :

The Council now employ a part-time Rodent Operator and I am very pleased to report that a very successful campaign has been waged against the rat.

All the Council's main sewers have been baited and I am happy to report that infestation has been greatly reduced. The refuse tip proves to be a bit of a problem, but regular inspections and treatment are being well rewarded.

If only a more detailed type of controlled tipping could be operated the infestation could then be greatly minimized.

Housing—County Development Plan for Penrith :

In order to assess the number of houses required to be built in Penrith during the next twenty years a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Penrith, when the County Planning Officer's Assistant met officials of this Council.

It was estimated that 1,000 houses would be required to replace the low category houses to relieve overcrowding and to provide homes for those living outside the area who work within the Urban Area, and to provide every family with a separate home.

The information below was studied :—

Number of inhabited dwellings in Penrith	..	..	..	2,974
Number of dwellings in Category 4	..	..	..	396
Number of dwellings in Category 3	..	..	..	90
Total number of substandard dwellings	..	..	..	486

From the Council's Housing Lists :

- 73 Applicants from families in overcrowded substandard houses (1 family per house).
- 54 Applicants from families in overcrowded substandard houses (2 families or more per house).
- 98 Applications from families who share a house but do not overcrowd it.
- 55 Applications from outside Penrith Urban Area.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, AT PENRITH ABATTOIR.

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1108	906	406	6195	597
Number inspected	1108	906	406	6195	597
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	22	84	104	72	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	514	544	9	278	59
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- eases other than T.B. ..	48.3 %	69.3 %	27.8 %	5.6 %	10.5 %
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	7	17	5	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	112	125	1	Nil	6
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B.	10.7 %	15.6 %	1.4 %	Nil	1 %

Whole Carcasses Condemned :

More than 95 % of the cattle, sheep and pigs totally condemned are casualty cases.

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned :

This percentage recorded for cattle and cows includes part livers condemned.

Swine Fever—Foot and Mouth Disease :

Two pigs examined were suspect swine fever, but proved to be otherwise. 1 Bovine (Auction) was suspected of Foot and Mouth Disease, but was “ cleared ” by a Veterinary Surgeon of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Cysticercus Bovis :

Twelve beasts were discovered to be affected with cysticercus bovis, but only two had more than one cyst.

Other Foods :

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption and disposed of in accordance with the ruling of the Ministry of Food :—

Tins Blown	Decomposed
69 tins of Evaporated Milk	1 tin of Nescafe
26 „ „ Soup	12 tins of Delicafe
265 „ „ Meat	32 packets of Poast Toasties
164 „ „ Vegetables	114 bottles of Fruit
39 „ „ Fish	1 „ „ Bev
247 „ „ Fruit	26 „ „ Pickles
1 tin of Beef Steak Pudding	2 „ „ Salad Cream
3 tins of Syrup	165 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of Bacon
8 „ „ Marmalade	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Ham
1 tin of Mushrooms	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Brawn
1 „ „ Chicken	72 „ Butter
1 „ „ Sausage	3 „ Pork
1 „ „ Apple Pudding	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Sausage
2 tins of Spaghetti	6 „ Cake
41 „ „ Cooked Ham	6 Cream Sandwiches
Tins Damaged	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of Jellied Veal
7 tins of Jam	9 „ Cheese
Jars Broken	9 stone of Fish
39 jars of Jam	Contaminated
2 „ „ Onions	42 lbs. of Sweets
1 jar of Fruit	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Suet
1 „ „ Syrup	3 „ Margarine
	28 „ Malt Flour
	36 pkts. of Wheat Flakes
	16 pkts. of Quaker Oats
	11 lbs. of Sugar
	8 „ Bacon
	56 „ Sweet Fat
	14 „ Commodity—not ground rice

Conclusion :

A little has been done on as many aspects of Public Health work as is possible for one person to do.

Meat Inspection continues to take up a lot of evening leisure time—a total of 258 hours being spent at the Abattoir during the year after office hours.

As this will be my last report to you as Medical Officer of Penrith Urban District, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all the help and encouragement you have given me and to wish you well, in your new appointment.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

RONALD N. SHARP,.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector

